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NOVEMBER 1, 2011

MEDIA CONTACT:

Paula Freund

Press Secretary

Office of Mayor Greg Ballard – City of Indianapolis

paula.freund@indy.gov; C: (317) 464-7112

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Mayor Ballard Launches 2011 Pack the Pantries: A Case for Giving

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard today encouraged area organizations, businesses and residents to respond to local food pantries' need for donations during the 4th Annual Pack the Pantries citywide food drive. "A Case for Giving," led by Indianapolis Front Porch, encourages participants to contribute a case for easier sorting once donations are delivered to local food banks and pantries. This year the City of Indianapolis is partnering with Midwest and Gleaners food banks, which will distribute the donations to local food pantries.

"Food and monetary donations to our food banks and pantries are critical," said Mayor Ballard. "We are responding to the needs of our residents through collaborative efforts and asking our community to pack the pantries."

The launch of this year's initiative took place today at Lucas Oil Stadium in coordination with the Million Meal Marathon, an effort sponsored by Kids Against Hunger and The Jefferson Awards in partnership with Peyton Manning's PeyBack Foundation. More than 3,000 volunteers are packaging 1 million meals for the program, developed to specifically mobilize passionate, Hoosier volunteers in efforts to eradicate hunger.

2011 Pack the Pantries participating partners include Fifth Third Bank, Bradshaw Construction Corporation, HNTB Corporation, Repro Graphix, Inc., the Indianapolis Indians, the Indiana Ice, the Indianapolis Colts and Indianapolis Food Resource Network. Pack the Pantries continues through Dec. 16, when Mayor Ballard will host the "Caravan of Care" as the donations are delivered via convoy to local food banks. From now through Dec. 9, residents are asked to drop off donations at designated drop locations. Please donate **NON-PERISHABLE** items. Items needed are canned meats such as tuna and chicken; heat-and-serve meals, such as soups and ravioli; 100 percent fruit juices; canned fruits and vegetables; peanut butter and jelly; and other kid-friendly foods including macaroni, cereal, applesauce cups and healthy snacks. Residents are encouraged to participate in other community-giving efforts as well, such as IUPUI's Jam the Jaguars Pantry Food Drive.

For more information and a complete list of food donation drop-off locations, visit www.indy.gov/frontporch. Monetary donations may be made to the Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee (note: Pack the Pantries), City of Indianapolis – Mayor's Office, 200 E. Washington, Suite 2501, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

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